

Message Text

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USICA

USICA FOR EA, PGM/R
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SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

- WITH CONFIRMATION SECOND PANAMA CANAL TREATY, CHINA TIMES (CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO; 530,000) AND UNITED DAILY NEWS (LIEN HO PAO; 600,000) WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DISCUSSED PRIORITY OF NORMALIZATION ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA. CHINA TIMES REPORTED "SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS" THOUGHT CHINA QUESTION STILL "THORNY ONE" SINCE NO ACCEPTABLE MODEL AVAILABLE. BUT "ONE OBSERVER" QUOTED THOUGHT PANAMA CANAL VICTORY DUE TO ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC EDUCATION OF AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THAT EDUCATION COULD BE APPLIED TO NORMALIZATION. UNITED DAILY NEWS QUOTED "U.S. OFFICIALS" TO EFFECT ADMINISTRATION STILL PREOCCUPIED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROBLEMS OTHER THAN NORMALIZATION AND SAW NO IMMEDIATE RESURGENCE OF DISCUSSION

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ON U.S.-PRC RELATIONS. HOWEVER, OBSERVERS DID NOT RULE OUT ACTION TO STRENGTHEN TRADE RELATIONS AND THOUGHT VANCE VISIT TO MOSCOW WORTH WATCHING SINCE VANCE WENT TO PEKING AFTER MOSCOW VISIT LAST YEAR. IN RELATED NEWS, CHINA TIMES CARRIED WASHINGTON DISPATCH IN WHICH LOUISE RAN REPORTEDLY ASKED BRZEZINSKI IF HE INTENDED VISIT PRC. NSC ADVISOR REPLIED HE HOPED TO BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHEN. ACCORDING TO

DISPATCH, "INFORMED SOURCE" TOLD RAN THAT BRZEZINSKI MAY VISIT PEKING BEFORE END OF YEAR BUT ONLY TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH PRC LEADERS AND WOULD NOT BRING FORMULA FOR NORMALIZATION WITH HIM.

- PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCE TO "MONTHS" ON REALIZING HOPES OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE REMAINED IN NEWS THIS WEEK. WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS FOR UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES QUOTED WH SPOKESMAN GRANUM AS SAYING "MONTHS" DID NOT MEAN RECOGNITION OF PEKING BEFORE END OF YEAR AND REAFFIRMED THERE WAS NO TIMETABLE FOR NORMALIZATION. UNITED DAILY NEWS, IN SEPARATE REPORT, SPECULATED SOMETHING MUST BE BEHIND CARTER'S REMARK SINCE THIS FIRST TIME IN SEVEN MONTHS HE MENTIONED CHINA POLICY, BUT CONCLUDED GRANUM'S RESPONSE SHOULD CLARIFY ISSUE. CHINA TIMES CITED "U.S. OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS" OPINION THAT IT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE" FOR ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLETE NORMALIZATION BEFORE END OF YEAR, ALTHOUGH "ONE CONGRESSMAN" REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF CARTER MADE TRIP TO PRC NEXT YEAR FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES. EDITORIALY, CHINA NEWS (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE; 20,000) THOUGHT "TIME IS RELATIVE. SECOND CAN BE LONG TIME, CENTURY BUT A MOMENT..." BUT STATED "IF THERE IS REALLY MEASUREMENT OF 'MONTHS' WE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO ASK FOR SPECIFICS, TO ASK WHAT UNITED STATES IS GOING TO DO TO REINFORCE OUR ABILITY TO DEFEND OURSELVES, AND TO ASK AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO DEMAND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER KEEP HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PROMISE TO PROCEED WITH NORMALIZATION ONLY ON TERMS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE OF TAIWAN WOULD NOT BE PUNISHED." UNITED DAILY NEWS CONCURRED. "SUCH A STATEMENT, HARMING FRIENDLY RELATIONS OF U.S. AND REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SHOULD BE CLARIFIED. AS MOST U.S. SENATOR AND CONGRESSMEN AND STATE SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AS WELL AS AMERICAN PEOPLE OPPOSE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING UNDER HER THREE CONDITIONS, PRESIDENT SHOULD RESPECT ATTITUDE OF HIS PEOPLE."

- REPORTS FROM CHINA TIMES AND CNA CORRESPONDENTS ON TOUR OF U.S. MILITARY BASES CONTINUED TO RECEIVE WIDE PLAY IN PRESS. FROM CINCPAC BOTH REPORTED ADMIRAL WEISNER AS SAYING U.S. BOUND BY U.S.-ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY TO DEFEND ROC. AS TO NORMALIZATION, WEISNER COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN BUT HE SURE NORMALIZATION WOULD NOT BE MADE AT EXPENSE OF ROC AND U.S. WOULD TAKE MEASURES TO ASSURE ROC SECURITY. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, WEISNER SAID THERE WERE NO TACTICAL PERSONNEL AMONG U.S. TROOPS ON TAIWAN AND NO PLAN TO GRADUALLY WITHDRAW TDC AT PRESENT TIME. VICE ADMIRAL BIGLEY ALSO REPORTEDLY ASSURED CORRESPONDENTS OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEFEND ROC BUT

ADMITTED PRC SUBMARINES POSED THREAT TO TAIWAN STRAITS' NAVIGATION. REPORTS SAID GENERAL HILL SPOKE HIGHLY OF ROC AIR FORCE AND NOTED PRC HAD LARGE QUANTITY OF LOW OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT.

- PAPERS REPORTED EIGHT DEFENDANTS IN CHUNGLI INCIDENT TRIAL RECEIVED SENTENCES FROM TWELVE TO TWO YEARS. IN SPECIAL ARTICLE, CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (CHUNG YANG JIH PAO; 400,000) QUOTED "JUDICIAL CIRCLES" AS SAYING SENTENCES

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WERE FAIR AND APPROPRIATE. CIRCLES THOUGHT COURT GAVE LIGHT SENTENCES BECAUSE YOUNG DEFENDANTS "LED BY RUMORS AND INSTIGATED BY OTHERS."

- EIGHT HEADS OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES MET WITH 77 LOCAL JUNIOR COLLEGE PRINCIPALS IN TWO DAY CONFERENCE ON JUNIOR COLLEGE EDUCATION SPONSORED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. ACCORDING TO SPEECH BY MAXWELL KING, PRESIDENT OF BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN COCOA, FLORIDA, U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGE COOPERATIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL OFFER 25 CHINESE STUDENTS FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AT COOPERATIVE COLLEGES. COOPERATIVE ALSO INTENDS INITIATE FACULTY/STUDENT EXCHANGE BETWEEN U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND CHINESE JUNIOR COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1978.

- ACCORDING TO AP ARTICLE IN CHINA NEWS APRIL 18, ROC HAD 12,000 STUDENTS IN U.S. IN 1976-77, MAKING IT SECOND ONLY TO IRAN, WITH 23,000, BASED ON IIE SURVEY. AYERS

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